



## **ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.**

8719 Colesville Road; Suite 100 • Silver Spring, MD 20910-3919

Telephone (301) 585-4000 • Fax Main (301) 585-0519

### **Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

August 7, 2014

Hyatt Regency · 400 Waterman · Wichita · KS

President Sharon Hobbs called the Annual Business meeting to order at 2:10pm on Thursday, August 7, 2014, in Eagle B meeting room of the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Kansas. A sign-in sheet was passed around to the membership as well as the Board

#### Opening exercises:

Madam President asked the National Chaplain, Sherry Wright-Anderson to hold a Moment of Silence for our POW's & MIA's, and then lead the invocation. Cathy Keister, National Vice President, led the Pledge to the Flag.

The President called the role. A quorum was present.

#### Board of Directors Roll Call:

President:	Sharon Hobbs	Region 4:	Jeri Wallis
Vice- President:	Cathy Keister	Region 5:	Excused
Secretary:	Excused	Region 6:	Sherry Wright-Anderson
Treasurer:	Bill Williams	Region 7:	Kathy Andras
Region 1:	France Cartier	Region 8:	John Birch
Region 2:	Nancy Rekowski	Region 9:	Elayne Mackey
Region 3:	Beverly Pounds		

**Motion:** To approve the agenda as written. **Adopted.**

President Hobbs advised everyone to read the Officers, Board, and Committee reports on the AVVA website.

#### Officer updates to written reports:

- Treasurer announced that over \$6,000 has been donated to the 2014 Project Friendship and donations were still coming in.

There were no additions to the Regional Reports.

#### Committee updates to written reports:

- Chaplain reported that she had received 113 death notices before she left for the Conference.



**ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.**

8719 Colesville Road; Suite 100 • Silver Spring, MD 20910-3919

Telephone (301) 585-4000 • Fax Main (301) 585-0519

- Public Relations Committee is working on a PR kit for the membership. She also announced that a billboard had been donated to AVVA in TN. The billboard will be used for Agent Orange awareness and is located on I-40 between Nashville and Memphis.
- The Leadership edition of the **UPDATES** e-newsletter will be out in September. Deadline for submissions is August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership Committee announced that AVVA now has over 8,500 members.
- Bylaw Committee announced that any recommendations for change must reach the Committee by March 23, 2015 to be considered for the 2015 Convention.
- Elections will be giving a Delegate update during the Saturday morning AVVA seminar
- The Legislative Committee urged everyone to contact his or her Senator and ask the support **S.2738** (formerly S.1602). **Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014.**
- President Hobbs had hoped to have a Leadership attendance update; however, the numbers were not yet available.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cathy Keister announced that the **National Foundation for Veterans and Families** held elections in April. A progress report will be made to the Board in October 2014. The newly elected Board is as follows:

Chair: Cathy Keister  
 Vice Chair: Jeff White  
 Secretary: Sherry Wright-Anderson  
 Treasurer: Susan Price

**Board Members:**  
 Elaine Simmons Sarah Maddox  
**Non-voting Member**  
 Sharon Hobbs, AVVA President

**ANNOUNCEMENTS;**

- All members were invited to stay after the meeting for an Open Forum for questions and answers.
- Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting in Room Eagle D
- During the Saturday morning seminar, "We Weren't Born To Follow", AVVA accomplishments and immediate Tasks will be shared with the attendees.

Awards were given during the AVVA Luncheon on August 7, 2014. The recipients were:

**Fellowship Award:** Sharon Hodge, AVVA At-Large, MD

**Member of the Year:** Sue Dirks, Chapter 1058 Jennings, LA



**ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.**

8719 Colesville Road; Suite 100 • Silver Spring, MD 20910-3919

Telephone (301) 585-4000 • Fax Main (301) 585-0519

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes recorded by Sharon Hobbs, National President

*Joanna Henshaw*

(filed by Natnl. Sec)

---

National Secretary